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Economic and Social Council

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Forum on financing for development follow-up
New York, 23–26 April 2018

Information note prepared by the President of the Economic and Social Council on arrangements for the 2018 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 69/313 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda), established an annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up with universal, intergovernmental participation. It also decided that the forum's modalities of participation would be those utilized at the international conferences on financing for development. The forum would consist of up to five days, one of which would be the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as well as additional institutional and other stakeholders depending on the priorities and scope of the meeting; up to four days would be dedicated to discussing the follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. In its resolution 70/192, the General Assembly further defined the modalities of the forum and encouraged the President of the Economic and Social Council, in collaboration with the Secretary-General, to produce an information note regarding arrangements for the meeting of the 2016 forum. This practice was applied for the 2017 Forum. The intergovermentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the 2017 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up (see E/FFDF/2017/3) also provide that the modalities for the 2018 Forum will also apply for the 2017 Forum. The present note was prepared in fulfilment of the mandate.

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II. Organizational arrangements

A. Dates and venue

3. In accordance with the intergovermentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the 2017 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up (see E/FFDF/2017/3), the 2018 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up will be held from Monday, 23 April to Thursday, 26 April 2018. All meetings of the forum will be held in the Trusteeship Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

B. Rules of procedure

4. As agreed at the 2016 forum on financing for development follow-up, the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 69/313 and 70/192, as well as any decisions adopted by the Council, will be applied to the meetings of the forum. It is proposed that the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 71/217 and 72/208 also be applied. In case of any contradiction between the rules of procedure and the relevant provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions and decisions, the latter will take precedence.

C. Schedule of meetings and organization of work

5. The meetings of the forum will be chaired by the President of the Economic and Social Council. It is proposed that, in the absence of the President, the Vice-Presidents of the Council will chair the meetings of the forum on behalf of the President.

6. The forum will consist of a ministerial segment, which will include a formal opening, a general debate, an interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders and four ministerial round tables, as well as the launch of the Joint Fund for Agenda 2030; and an expert segment, which will include five thematic round tables, two expert discussions and a formal closing.

7. The updated provisional programme of the forum is available from: http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffdforum/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2018/04/Draft-2018-FfD-Forum-programme_9-April-for-website.pdf.

D. Opening of the forum

8. The forum, including the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD, will begin at 10 a.m. on Monday, 23 April.

9. At the opening of the forum, statements will be delivered by the President of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

10. Following the opening remarks, a keynote address will be made by a renowned opinion leader on the global context and mega-trends.

11. Subsequently, presentations will be delivered by senior officials of major institutional stakeholders and relevant United Nations system organizations to launch the 2018 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development.

E. General debate

12. The general debate will be held on Monday, 23 April, from 5 to 6 p.m.; on Tuesday, 24 April, from 5 to 6 p.m.; on Wednesday, 25 April, from 4.30 to 6 p.m.; and on Thursday, 26 April, from 5 to 5.45 p.m. During the general debate, ministers and high-level officials attending the forum will be able to make formal statements, on the understanding that the principle of precedence will be applied, in accordance with the past practice of the international conferences on financing for development. Statements made on behalf of groups will be limited to five minutes and statements by individual delegations will be limited to three minutes, although this will not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts. Time limits will be strictly observed.

13. The list of speakers for the general debate is open. Requests for registration on the list of speakers should be submitted through the ECOSOC eSpeakers module on the e-deleGATE secure portal. Registration on the list of speakers will close at 1 p.m. on 20 April 2018. Intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations system, including funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, wishing to register on the list of speakers should send, in writing, the full name and title of the speaker to the Secretary of the Council, Ms. Emer Herity (c/o Paolo Dua (email duap@un.org).

F. Interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders

14. An interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders will be held on Tuesday, 24 April, from 3 to 5 p.m., with a focus on (a) disaster risk and resilience; and (b) taxation in the digitalized economy.

G. Ministerial round tables

15. Four ministerial round tables will be held on 23 and 24 April. The ministerial round tables will provide a space for ministers and vice-ministers to share national policy and institutional development in support of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as well as challenges encountered and international support measures needed. They will be guided by paragraph 131 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which states, inter alia, that the financing for development follow-up process should promote the sharing of lessons learned from experiences at the national and regional levels. Each round table will bring together a balanced mix of ministers from developed and developing countries, one high-level representative from an international financial institution or an intergovernmental organization and high-level representatives from civil society and the private sector.

H. Thematic round tables and panel discussions

Thematic round tables

16. The forum will include five thematic round tables, to be held on Wednesday, 25 April, and Thursday, 26 April, on the following topics:

(a) Round table A: "Domestic public resources" (action area A);

(b) Round table B: "Domestic and international private business and finance" (action area B);

(c) Round table C: "Trade, science, technology, innovation and capacity-building" (action areas D and G);

(d) Round table D: "International development cooperation" (action area C);

(e) Round table E: "Debt and systemic issues" (action areas E and F).

17. Discussions at the round tables will be facilitated by a moderator. Each round table will be open to the representatives of all participating States, up to 20 representatives of accredited intergovernmental organizations, up to 10 representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system, 3 representatives of accredited civil society organizations, and 3 representatives of accredited business sector entities. Each representative of a participating State may be accompanied by one adviser.

18. To encourage an interactive discussion, there will be no pre-determined list of speakers for the round tables. Representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system wishing to participate in the round tables are invited to indicate to the Financing for Development Office (Ms. Isabel Tañedo, email tanedo@un.org; tel: 1 (212) 963-0500) in which of the round tables they intend to participate. Participation by civil society organizations in the round tables will be coordinated by the Civil Society Organizations Financing for Development Group and participation by the business sector will be coordinated by the Business Sector Steering Committee (see https://reg.unog.ch/event/23714/).

19. Each round table will include a panel discussion, comprising four to five panellists. The panel discussion will be followed by an interactive debate. In order to allow for maximum participation, interventions should not exceed five minutes for State representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries and three minutes for representatives of individual States and all other stakeholders. All participants will be invited to speak from their seats and are encouraged to avoid reading from written statements, although this will not preclude the publication of full texts.

Expert discussions

20. On Thursday, 26 April, there will also be two expert discussions on the following topics:

(a) Expert discussion 1: "Encouraging foreign investment to countries in special situations";

(b) Expert discussion 2: "Gender equality and the empowerment of women".

21. In the discussions, experts from Governments, international organizations and other stakeholders will address selected issues that are not fully covered in the thematic round tables. Each expert discussion will be conducted in the form of a panel discussion, with up to four panel members and a moderator.

I. Adoption of intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations

22. It is envisaged that the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations will be presented by the co-facilitators appointed by the President and adopted immediately after the conclusion of the ministerial segment on the afternoon of 24 April.

J. Closing of the forum

23. At the closing of the forum, on the afternoon of 26 April, a procedural report will be presented for adoption. The forum will be formally closed by the President of the Council.

III. Seating arrangements

24. Owing to space limitations in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, at the opening of the forum and at subsequent meetings, the delegation of each State participating in the forum and that of the European Union will be assigned two seats: one at the table and one behind. Seating will also be specifically assigned for other participants. At the interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders, to be held on Tuesday, 24 April, from 3 to 5 p.m., the executive directors of the institutions will be seated among the State representatives.

IV. Participants

25. The meetings of the forum will be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations or States members of specialized agencies and the European Union; intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly; other intergovernmental organizations in accordance with rule 74 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council; intergovernmental organizations that were accredited to the Monterrey, Doha or Addis Ababa conferences on financing for development; relevant entities of the United Nations system; and accredited civil society organizations and business sector entities.

Civil society and the business sector

26. Representatives of civil society and business sector entities are invited to participate in the forum in accordance with the established practice of the international conferences on financing for development, namely: (a) all non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and (b) all non-governmental organizations and business sector entities that were accredited to the Monterrey, Doha or Addis Ababa conferences on financing for development.

V. Registration

27. Registration for States and intergovernmental organizations will be open with the Protocol and Liaison Service in New York, following an announcement in the Journal of the United Nations.

28. In order to be included in the list of participants, delegations are kindly reminded that the names of representatives and alternates attending the forum should be registered through the ECOSOC e-List of participants module or e-deleGATE.

29. Registration information for relevant organizations of the United Nations system, civil society organizations and the business sector entities can be found at https://reg.unog.ch/event/23714/.

VI. Documentation

A. Pre-session documentation

30. The pre-session documentation of the forum includes:

(a) Provisional agenda (E/FFDF/2018/1);

(b) Information note prepared by the President of the Economic and Social Council on arrangements for the 2018 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up (E/FFDF/2018/INF/1);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on financing for development: progress and prospects (E/FFDF/2018/2);

(d) 2018 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, entitled "Financing for development: progress and prospects".

B. In-session documentation

31. In-session documentation will include:

(a) Draft report of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up for 2018 (E/FFDF/2018/L.1);

(b) Draft agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up (E/FFDF/2018/L.2).

C. Post-session documentation

32. Post-session documentation will include:

(a) Final procedural report of the 2018 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, containing the agreed conclusions and recommendations (E/FFDF/2018/3);

(b) Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the 2018 forum on financing for development follow-up.

D. Inputs from all relevant stakeholders

33. Background information on the forum, including inputs received from all relevant stakeholders, will be posted and updated, on a regular basis, on the website of the forum (www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffdforum/2018-ffd-forum.html).

VII. Media arrangements

Live coverage

34. The Department of Public Information will provide live coverage of the forum. Live and on-demand webcasts of the meetings of the forum and press conferences, in English and the original language of the speaker, will be available from the United Nations Web TV website (http://webtv.un.org). Press releases, official documents, statements and other information material will be made available on the website of the forum.

VIII. Side events

35. A series of side events, organized by Member States and other stakeholders, will complement the official programme of the forum. Registration of side events closed on 16 March 2018. The programme of side events, as well as guidelines on the organization of side events, is available on the website of the forum.

Annex

Tentative programme of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up

United Nations Headquarters, 23–26 April 2018

Monday, 23 April	
10–10.30 a.m.	Opening of the forum
	Adoption of the provisional agenda and other organizational matters
	Statement by the President of the Economic and Social Council
	Statements by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the General Assembly
10.30–10.45 a.m.	Keynote address
10.45–11.30 a.m.	Statements by senior officials of relevant United Nations system organizations, the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization.
11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	Ministerial round table 1
3–4.30 p.m.	Ministerial round table 2
4.30–5 p.m.	Launch of the Joint Fund for Agenda 2030
5–6 p.m.	General debate: statements by ministers and high-level officials
Tuesday, 24 April	
10–11.30 a.m.	Ministerial round table 3
11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	Ministerial round table 4
3–5 p.m.	Interactive dialogue with intergovernmental bodies of major institutional stakeholders
	Statements by the Chair of the International Monetary Fund/World Bank Development Committee, the Chair of the International Monetary and Financial Committee of the International Monetary Fund, the Chair of the General Council of the World Trade Organization and the President of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
5–6 p.m.	Presentation and adoption of the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations
	General debate: statements by ministers and high-level officials
Wednesday, 25 April	
10–11.30 a.m.	Round table A: "Domestic public resources" (action area A)
11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	Round table B: "Domestic and international private business and finance" (action area B)

3–4.30 p.m.	Round table C: "Trade, science, technology, innovation and capacity-building" (action areas D and G)
4.30–6 p.m.	General debate: statements by ministers and high-level officials
Thursday, 26 April	
10–11.30 a.m.	Round table D: "International development cooperation (action area C)
11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	Round table E: "Debt and systemic issues" (action areas E and F)
3–4 p.m.	Expert discussion 1: "Encouraging foreign investment to countries in special situations"
4–5 p.m.	Expert discussion 2: "Gender equality and the empowerment of women"
5–5.45 p.m.	General debate: statements by ministers and high-level officials
5.45–6 p.m.	Closing of the forum
	Adoption of the report of the forum
	Closing statement by the President of the Economic and Social Council